



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name: LaCrosse Valley Wildlife Area
(multiple, small properties can be grouped):

Property Designation or Type: Wildlife Area

DNR Property Code(s) (DNR Prop Code Number)

Forestry Property Code(s): 4201

Property Location - County: Monroe

Property Acreage: 169

Master Plan Date:
(if property has one)

Property Manager: Ron Lichtie

Property Assessment

The following should be considered during the property assessment:

Hydrology: The LaCrosse Valley Wildlife Area lies in the Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape. Dendritic drainage patterns are well-developed in this mostly unglaciated Ecological Landscape. Natural lakes are restricted to the floodplains of large rivers. Large warm water rivers are especially important here, and include the Wisconsin, Chippewa, and Black. The Mississippi River forms the Ecological Landscapes' western boundary. Numerous spring-fed (coldwater) headwater streams occur here. Cool water streams are also common.

Current Land Cover: The Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape is a mosaic of forest, cropland and grassland with wetlands mostly in the river valleys. Primary forest cover is oak and hickory. Maple and basswood forests, dominated by sugar maple, basswood and red maple, are common in areas that were not burned frequently. Bottomland hardwoods dominated by silver maple, swamp white oak, river birch, ashes, elms and cottonwood are common within the floodplains of the larger rivers. Relict "northern" mesic conifer forests composed of hemlock, white pine and associated hardwoods such as yellow birch are rare but do occur in areas with cool, moist microclimates. Dry rocky bluffs may support xeric stands of native white pine, sometimes mixed with red or even jack pine. Prairies are now restricted to steep south or west facing bluffs, unplowed outwash terraces along the large rivers, and a few other sites. They occupy far less than 1% of the current landscape. Mesic tallgrass prairies are now virtually nonexistent except as very small remnants along rights-of-way or in cemeteries.

Property context: Contextually, this property is situated in an area that is heavily to moderately dissected and fragmented with agricultural fields and other open areas. Subsequently,



Interim Forest Management Plan

opportunities for large block old forest development for area sensitive forest interior species are limited. However, this more fragmented setting offers great opportunities for "edge" game species and early successional "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" as identified within the state's Wildlife Action Plan. See below for species/opportunities.

SOILS

The property contains slopes of 0- 60%. The soils are composed of: Boone, Norden, Urne, Bilson, Sooner, Tarr, Tint, Council, Elevasil, and Bedrock. The mix of soils is 58% sandy loam, 29% Sand, 11% silt loam, and 2% bedrock/quarry. The bedrock is made up of mostly sandstone with a minor component of dolomite and shale.

CURRENT FOREST TYPES, SIZE CLASSES AND SUCCESSIONAL STAGES

The total acreage for this property is 169. Of these 169 acres 161 are forested and made up of Central hardwoods (34%), Scrub oak (22%), Aspen (16%), Jack pine (14%), Oak (10%), and White Birch (4%). The remaining non-forested acres are made up of the road right of way. All the stands are in an early successional stage.

The Central hardwoods stand is 55 acres in size, 60 years old; the trees are mostly 11 to 15 inches in diameter. There are two Scrub oak stands. One stand is 10 acres in size, 11 years old; the trees are mostly 0 to 5 inches in diameter. The other stand is 25 acres in size, 79 years old; the trees are mostly 11 to 15 inches in diameter. There are three Aspen stands. One stand is 3 acres in size, 78 years old; the trees are mostly 11 to 15 inches in diameter. One of the other stands is 16 acres in size, 11 years old; the trees are mostly 0 to 5 inches in diameter. The last Aspen stand is 7 acres in size, 37 years old; the trees are mostly 5 to 11 inches in diameter. There are two Jack pine stands. One stand is 17 acres in size, 51 years old; the trees are mostly 5 to 9 inches in diameter. The other stand is 5 acres in size, 44 years old; the trees are mostly 5 to 9 inches in diameter but of a much lower density than the other Jack pine stand. There are two Oak stands. One stand is 12 acres in size, 94 years old; the trees are mostly greater than 15 inches in diameter. The other stand is 4 acres in size, 74 years old; the trees are mostly 11 to 15 inches in diameter. There is one White birch stand, 7 acres in size, 56 years old; the trees are mostly 5 to 11 inches in diameter.

NHI: Endangered, threatened, Special Concern species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN):

There is 1 state endangered, 1 state threatened, and 3 special concern species known from the general area.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need associated with Oak/pine barrens, Dry forest, and shrublands include; Blanding's Turtle, Bullsake, Prairie Racerunner, Western Slender Glass Lizard, Yellow-bellied Racer, Wood Turtle, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-winged Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Red Bat, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Northern Long-eared Bat, Prairie Vole, Woodland Vole, Dusted Skipper, Wild Indigo Dusky Wing, Karner Blue Butterfly, Gorgone Checkerspot, Henry's Elfin, Frosted Elfin, Hoary Elfin, Olympia Marble, Persius Duskywing, Ernestine's Moth, Phlox Moth.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA):

The property is located within the "Fort McCoy Barrens and Oak Savanna COA

Significant cultural or archeological features Old farmstead foundation in Northern portion

Invasive species: Honeysuckle, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and autumn olive

Existing State Natural Areas (SNA) designations/natural community types limited in the landscape

As the property does contain both scrub oak and jack pine, the potential exists that oak/pine barrens occur on the property.

Primary public uses (recreation):

Hunting and hiking

Biotic Inventory Status:

Not complete

Deferral/consultation area designations:

None

IFMP components

Management Objectives: (Outline primary forest management objectives):

The primary forest management objective is to provide younger forest for both game species and early successional species of greatest conservation need. A second objective is to provide small blocks of old forest and scattered old trees for mast production, cavity trees and snag trees for wildlife benefits.

1. Maintain oak cover types where feasible.
 - a. Diversify age classes
 - b. Crop tree release oak in young stands.
 - c. Regenerate oak stands where feasible and promote oak in young mixed hardwood stands.
 - d. Promote/retain larger diameter trees where feasible.
 - e. Increase standing dead snags and coarse woody debris
 - f. Manage to promote barrens structure and understory composition where appropriate in the scrub oak areas.



Interim Forest Management Plan

2. Maintain Jack Pine cover type
 - a. Manage to promote barrens structure and understory composition where appropriate in jack pine area-especially in 5 acre stand that has a lower stocking rate.
3. Central Hardwoods
 - a. Promote young stands in the majority of the types
 - b. Promote some larger diameter trees where better soils exists
 - c. Increase standing dead snags and coarse woody debris
4. Aspen/White birch
 - a. Maintain aspen/white birch and diversify age classes with emphasis on developing younger stands.

Property Prescriptions (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives):

OAK – Maintain and promote oak through planting, timber stand improvement methods, thinning, coppice, overstory removal, shelterwood, and other techniques described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. Reserve/legacy trees should be retained as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands to maintain a component of large mast trees and promote both snag trees and coarse woody debris for wildlife. Harvest in a way that provides savanna structure (scattered trees mostly as individuals but some in groups) in the driest upland scrub oak sites. Consult NHC Ecologist/Property manager for barrens opportunities and marking guidance.

JACK PINE- Maintain and regenerate where feasible. Consult NHC Ecologist/Property manager for barrens opportunities and well before ground scarification, trenching, or herbicide application for site preparation to avoid damage in areas with barrens potential.

ASPEN/WHITE BIRCH – Maintain aspen cover type by regenerating the stand using a coppice system. Favor winter harvesting for more abundant regeneration as well as reduced soil impact. Achieve age-class diversity by flexing rotation age within the property.

CENTRAL HARDWOODS Lower quality sites will be rotated and regenerated via coppice with fiber as the product objective. Higher quality sites will be managed with a sawlog objective by either shelterwood or group selection regeneration techniques. The group selection technique can be used to maintain semi-tolerant species if management sees the site fit enough to support the type.

ALL STANDS –

- Identify invasive species and use proper BMP practices and treatment options to eradicate or minimize impact.
- Identify and protect rare and endangered species and provide habitat for these species.



Interim Forest Management Plan

- Retain reserve/legacy/green tree retention trees as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands

Summary of Public Involvement and Comments Received

Maps (Optional)

- Property Boundary and ownership Maps
- Forest Cover Type Maps

PREPARED BY:

Ronald Lichtie
11/16/2017
Property Manager

Ronald Lichtie 11/16/2017
Date

APPROVED:

[Signature]
Area Program Supervisor

12/14/2017
Date

REVIEWED BY:

Sean M. Sullivan
Forester

12-15-17
Date

Armond O. Bartz
District Ecologist

01/26/18
Date



Interim Forest Management Plan

Lacrosse Valley Wildlife Area

